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I.

A FEW REMARKS ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL MANAGEMENT OF CONFLUENT SMALLPOX.

We offered, a few weeks ago, some remarks by Mr. George on the local application of calamine to the pustules of smallpox. The following observations, by the same surgeon, are now republished as connected with those before referred to.

If the conclusions, says he, which I have drawn from the effects observed on treating the smallpox locally with calamine be correct, it necessarily follows that the general plan of constitutional management must be materially altered. By characterizing the disturbance in the system as fever, we are naturally led to the employment of remedies that are little calculated to relieve a state of constitutional irritation—opium to procure ease, ammonia to support the powers of the system, even bark, after a short interval, become our resources, with an appropriate plan of nourishment, all adapted to meet the exigencies of the case. I am induced to suppose any other mode of treatment would lead to a continuance of that ruffled state of constitution occasioned by the shock which the disease has communicated to the nervous system, and assist in deceiving us in regard to the existence of fever. I can imagine that even the daily action of a purgative, after the ninth or tenth day, would produce a rapid and irregular circulation, with all its consequent distress; for, it appears to me, that it is at this time we are more particularly called upon to restore, and not to detract from, the reduced powers of the system: bark, wine, brandy, &c., were daily administered at this period in both the cases which I have related to you; and in the instance of the man, a purgative, composed of the tartrate of potash, senna, and rhubarb, produced such abdominal distention and general distress, as required nearly half a pint of brandy to relieve him from, and no purgative effect produced: eight grains of rhubarb were then added to his cordial bark mixture, which was consumed daily, with the effect of producing one evacuation. It seems almost natural to us to be tenacious of our own opinions, and perhaps not always so in proportion to their value. I acknowledge the possession of my share of human frailty in believing that those who advocate a different system will, to use the words of Sydenham, "find themselves as much in the wrong as an old woman would be, who, to make her pot boil more gently, should make a larger fire underneath." It is impossible to be offended with anything that Sydenham says!

II.

CASE OF COLICA CONSTIPATA REMOVED BY INFLATION. BY JOHN KING, JUN., SURGEON.

THE importance of inflation as a remedy for obstruction of the bowels, appears to me not to be sufficiently appreciated at the present day. It was first recommended by Hippocrates for the removal of intestinal obstruction; in more modern times, it has been resorted to by Hoffman and Haller; and notwithstanding the neglect it has since experienced, I cannot but regard it as worthy of an eminent position in the list of therapeutic agents. The treatment usually prescribed in cases of ileus or colica (without inflammation) is very discordant, as witness,—warm baths, fomentations, injections of warm water and oil, rubefacients, and blisters,—contra—cold effusion and immersion, freezing lotions, pounded ice and snow; not to mention emetics, purgatives, and mechanical distention by warm fluids, quicksilver, gold and silver balls, &c.,—and when all these remedies have failed, bloodletting, tobacco, in infusion and smoke, and lastly, gastrotomy. Yet this simple means of inflation, although probably the most powerful, and the least dangerous, is entirely overlooked. It paralyses, as it were, the constricted fibres of the bowels, and may be used in the following cases, if not with complete success, at least with advantage, viz., the various kinds of colic proceeding from torpidity, spasmodic constriction, viscid meconium in newborn infants, impaction, bezoards, and other intestinal concretions, volvulus or intus-susceptio, and some cases of hernia. It was a happy thought of those who hit upon this means in the hour of danger, after all their other efforts had proved nugatory. For although tobacco, which is often used as a last resort, sometimes is successful, it is not uniformly so, and it too often happens that the patient, rather than undergo a repetition of it, beseeches to be allowed "to die in peace." We may also observe the hesitation with which the practitioner has recourse to it, not only because of its doubtful efficacy, but on account of the danger there is of greater exhaustion being produced by it. I take the liberty of giving one case, as I conceive it may give some idea of the power of inflation.

In September, 1829, I was requested to visit Mrs. G., æt. 26, of rather delicate frame. On the night previous to my visit, she experienced an uneasy sensation in the region of the stomach, for which she took eight grains of calomel combined with a half-drachm of compound powder of jalap, without any impression on the bowels. During the night, this uneasiness increased to an almost intolerable pain, accompanied with obstinate vomiting, which continued till the evening, when I saw her. In the course of the day she took two doses of castor oil, and received five injections. When I entered the apartment, she was sitting near the fire, and her body bent forward; the face was wan, hollow, dejected, and of a dingy yellow color; the surface of body and extremities inclining to cold. Pulse 80, soft, and much compressed—tongue, at the back part, covered with a brownish-colored mucus—she had obtained no alvine solution for six days. She took no notice of my being present, or of anything going on around her, but informed me, when questioned as to the seat and

kind of pain, that it was of "a violent screwing nature, working between the stomach and navel,"—coming on in paroxysms, and ending in, or producing vomiting. I ordered the warm bath, and gave a teaspoonful of laudanum with compound spirit of lavender, which was soon afterwards vomited. Upon this, an effervescing mixture was given, then five drops of croton oil with some laudanum, and in about three quarters of an hour, five drops more without laudanum: but each in its turn was rejected, with a quantity of yellow-colored fluid. It was at this time I first thought of inflation. For this purpose I procured a pair of common bellows, and securing the bladder of a glyster bag to the nozzle of the bellows, the pipe was introduced into the rectum, while the patient lay on her right side, and the bellows was commenced being wrought. As soon as the air entered the rectum, the effect was immediate and satisfactory; the countenance lost its anxiety, the eye brightened, and the patient said she felt quite relieved. A gurgling noise was heard in the bowel, with an escape of fetid air; and in about a minute from the time the air began to enter the rectum, she requested to be allowed to go to stool. She had a copious dejection and a good night's rest; and next morning complained only of being much enfeebled, but was otherwise well.

I was deeply impressed, about five years ago, with the fatal result of a case of intus-susceptio, in a fine robust infant, six months old; which was supposed to proceed from the effects of half a teaspoonful of some syrup of poppy, made, as is commonly done, with opium, given for the purpose of procuring sleep during the period of teething. About eight hours after it was given, the child began to cry vehemently, having appeared restless and uneasy for several hours previously. Early in the forenoon it passed a very scanty stool, streaked with blood; soon after this, vomiting commenced, which continued until the little sufferer sank. Is it unreasonable to imagine that if inflation had been used in this case, the result would have been otherwise? I was hereby shown the necessity of seeking more powerful means than fluid injections, &c. And I hope, as I firmly believe, that inflation with common air is the necessary desideratum. I conclude, with Dr. Cheyne, "that a man dying of ileus presents one of the most pitiable sights in nature; and a leading object of this paper is to remove a part of the horrors of the scene, by withholding many of the bitter doses which are forced upon him by the solicitude of his friends and the officiousness of his physician."

Glasgow Med. Journ.

III.

RUSPINI'S STYPTIC.

Dr. A. T. Thomson has announced the discovery of the composition of this nostrum, and we hope he may be found correct; for, unquestionably, the medicine is one of the most powerful restrainers of hemorrhage which we possess. Its price is enormous, and therefore its utility—indeed its use, is greatly curtailed. Without going into the process by which Dr. T. arrived at his conclusions, we may observe that he considers *Gallic Acid* as the active principle of this styptic. There are in it, he remarks, minute quantities of opium and sulphate of zinc, but they can have no operative

effect. Dr. T. avers that the vehicle is alcohol, with a small quantity of rose-water to give it odor. This observation induces us to fear that there is some mistake, or that more than one kind of Ruspini's styptic is in the market. That which we examined a few months ago, while exhibiting it in a case of internal hemorrhage, was insipid and tasteless as spring water. It had no appearance of alcohol. Dr. T. informs us that alcohol dissolves one-fourth of its weight of gallic acid—and consequently that "an excellent styptic may be, at any time, extemporaneously prescribed." "In cases of hæmaturia, the addition of some gallic acid to a tincture of uva ursi will be found to answer every indication which can be expected from the employment of astringents in this disease." Dr. T. thinks the gallic acid is taken into the circulation, and passes undecomposed through the kidneys, so as to reach the bleeding vessels wherever situated.—*Lond. Med. and Phys. Journ.*

IV.

ELECTRICAL PROPERTIES OF CAOUTCHOUC.

PROF. WALTER R. JOHNSON, in a paper read to the Academy of Natural Sciences, April 20, 1830, has developed the electrical properties of caoutchouc, and states some novel results and applications.

Although Dr. J. K. Mitchell had before placed it among non-conductors, Mr. Johnson has shown that it is one of the most perfect non-conductors. In the common process of removing pencil marks from paper, much of the latter, with the crayon and some of the abraded rubber itself, adheres to the firm part of the latter, chiefly at the last stage of the rubbing, by an electrical attraction, and accordingly, when the hand is passed lightly over the rubber, the adhering matters drop off, because the hand conducts away the electricity.

When a piece of India-rubber is pressed closely upon the brass cap of a Bennet's gold leaf electrometer, and suddenly withdrawn, the leaves will diverge and strike the sides of the glass; if the rubber is simply stretched and applied, the excitement is feeble, especially if slowly withdrawn, "while a smart separation causes the leaves to diverge at once to their greatest extent." The production of heat, when a thong of caoutchouc is held against the lips and suddenly pulled to the utmost, and at the same moment pressed hard, is well known.

According to Dr. J. K. Mitchell, the caoutchouc, even in the extreme thinness to which he reduces it by his peculiar mode of expanding it, by blowing after immersion in ether, entirely prevents the passage of the electric spark from the prime conductor; it is however probable that it would be lacerated by the discharge from a powerful battery.

The remainder of Mr. Johnson's paper, we quote entire.

"The fact, however, that it has a power of resisting to a considerable extent, points it out as a good medium to be interposed between the two surfaces of the condenser, or substituted in some form for the Leyden phial.

"For this purpose, a piece of gum, reduced to a very thin sheet, may be interposed between two sheets of tin foil and laid upon a table; a thicker sheet of gum may then be laid upon the upper sheet of foil, so that the edge of the lat-

ter should be at some distance from that of the former. The whole may then be rolled up into a coil, allowing a small part of the included tin foil to project out at one end of the roll. A charge may now be given to this apparatus, and a shock obtained by connecting the outer sheet of tin with the part of the inner, projecting at the end.

"A disk of metal may be covered with a thin sheet of caoutchouc, and another disk furnished with an insulating handle placed above it; this apparatus will serve all the purpose of the ordinary condenser.

"I have stretched a piece of gum upon a circular piece of board, six inches in diameter, with a coat of tin foil underneath; on rubbing this with flannel, it becomes highly electrified, and if a plate, like the upper or receiver plate of the electrophorus, be placed upon it and touched, it will evince a very vigorous action on the electroscope.

"This effect may be increased by the use of the condenser, and even a common Leyden jar may be charged in favorable weather to a considerable degree of intensity.

"By a single contact of the plate of this electrophorus, so much electricity is sometimes developed, that it will communicate to a pin's head electricity enough to turn the small needle of the silk thread torsion balance through two or three revolutions.

"The non-conducting property of caoutchouc may be profitably employed in the construction of torsion balances, for measuring the intensity of electrical action. For this purpose, a string of the gum, of any convenient thickness, may be cut from a sheet or bag, making it as nearly as practicable of *uniform* thickness. This may afterwards be reduced to the required size by treating it with ether, stretching it, and allowing it to remain distended until the ether is fully evaporated. A small longitudinal hole may then be made at one end, through which a needle of gum shellac, carrying a disk of metal, or what is better, a very thin spherical bag of caoutchouc at one extremity, may be accurately adjusted on its centre of gravity. *Insulators* of this substance may be formed either in plates, strings, or conical portions of bags, to support any required apparatus.

"Hence it appears that nearly a complete set of electrical apparatus may be framed of this substance, capable of being transported with perfect ease and safety under circumstances in which the common apparatus would be inevitably demolished. In a large bag, or extended sheet, it may be used for the *cylinder* or *plate* of the common machine. A portion of the same may be substituted for the *rubber*. The electrophorus, the condenser, and the Leyden jar, may be formed of it. The torsion balance, constructed with balls of this substance instead of pith balls, is an instrument far preferable to that of Coulomb. The jar may receive either the coiled form already described, or it may have the usual form by making the inner coating of tinned iron, covering it with a thin sheet of gum, and then adding an exterior coating of metal."—*Amer. Journ. of Science and Arts.*

V.

MANUFACTURED ARTICLES FROM HORNS AND HOOFS.

A PATENT was enrolled, March, 1829, to J. & T. Deakin, of Sheffield, for certain methods of making,

from horns and hoofs, various articles, such as handles and knobs of drawers, curtain rings, bell pulls, door handles and knobs, key-hole escutcheons, covering for doors and window-shutters, finger plates, knobs and handles of table knives and forks, &c.

The method of making some of these articles is thus stated :—

In making a ring of horn, the required piece is first cut out of the flats, of its proper dimensions, and nearly in the shape of a horse-shoe ; it is then pressed in a pair of dies to give its surface the desired pattern, but previous to pressing, both the piece of horn and the dies are to be heated : the piece of horn is to be introduced between the dies and pressed in a vice, and when cold, the pattern or impression will be fixed upon the horn.

But the dies are to be so made that the open ends of the horse-shoe piece of horn, after being pressed, shall have at one end a nib, and at the other a recess of a dove-tailed form, corresponding to each other ; and the second operation in forming this ring of horn is, to heat it and place it in another pair of dies, which shall bring its open ends together, and cause the dove-tailed joints to be locked fast into each other, which completes the ring, and leaves no appearance of the junction.

In forming the handles of table knives and forks, or other things which require to be made of two pieces, each of the pieces or sides of the handle, is formed in a separate pair of dies ; the one piece is made with a counter-sunk groove along each side, and the other piece with corresponding leaves or projecting edges. When these two pieces are formed by being first cut out of the flat horn, then pressed in the dies in a heated state, for the purpose of giving the pattern, the two pieces are again heated and put together, the leaves or edges of the one piece dropping into the counter-sunk grooves of the other piece, and being introduced between another pair of heated dies, the joints are pressed together, and the two pieces formed into one handle.

In making knobs for drawers, which have metal stems or pins to fasten them into the furniture, the face of the knob is to be first made in a die, and then the back part of the knob with a hole in it ; a metal disk of plate iron is then provided, in which the metal stem or screw pin is fixed, and the stem being passed through the aperture in the back piece, and the two pieces of horn put together, they are then heated and pressed in dies, as before described ; the edge of the back piece falling into the counter-sunk groove of the front piece, and by the heat they are perfectly cemented together.—*Lond. Journ. of Arts and Sciences.*

VI.

THUNDER STORMS IN FRANCE.

THE Count de Triston has made observations on the direction of the thunder storms which have devastated the department of the Lorich for the last sixteen years. The following general inferences have been made by him respecting the progress and intensity of thunder storms in plain countries, intersected by shallow valleys. Thunder storms are attracted by forests. When one arrives at a forest, if it be obliquely, it glides along it ; if

directly, or if the forest be narrow, it is turned from its direction; if the forest be broad, the tempest may be totally arrested. Whenever a forest, being in the path of a thunder storm, tends to turn it aside, the velocity of the storm seems retarded, and its intensity is augmented. A thunder cloud which is arrested by a forest, exhausts itself along it, or, if it pass over, is greatly weakened. When a large river or valley is nearly parallel to the course of a thunder storm, the latter follows its direction; but the approach of a wood, or the somewhat abrupt turn of the river or valley, makes it pass off. A thunder cloud attracts another which is at no great distance, and causes it to deviate from its course. There is reason to believe that the action is reciprocal. A cloud attracted by a larger, accelerates its motion, as it approaches the principal cloud. When there is an affluent cloud which was committing ravages, it sometimes suspends them on approaching the principal mass, which is perhaps a consequence of the acceleration of its course; but after the union, the evil generally increases. Twenty-one thunder storms whose course has been distinctly traced, have extended from N. N. W. to S. S. W. No destructive thunder storms have come from any other points of the horizon. Lastly, the position and form of the forest of Orleans, Blois, &c., satisfactorily accounts for the frequency of hail storms in certain communes, and their rare occurrence in others.—*Amer. Journ. of Science and Arts.*

VII.

MEDICAL GALVANISM.

To the Editor of the Boston Med. and Surg. Journal.

Dear Sir,—I have derived much satisfaction from your recent condensed views of the New Medicines, and shall feel under accumulating obligations if your columns can be made to afford the substance, in short space, of all that is *known* on *Medical* Galvanism. It has seemed to me a very peculiar agent, and probably an important one, and might be made to do a *few* things very well; but its too sanguine friends have imposed on it too many offices. I lack experience on the subject; while perhaps some judicious individual has bestowed the same care and impartiality in discriminating its merits as has been given the New Medicines, and can with little trouble furnish the results. Let the inquiry be confined to its effects on the human system alone, for it is quite immaterial to our present purpose whether, in Experimental Philosophy, it seems to be the same fluid as Electricity. I am clearly of opinion, that in some important particulars they are very different curative agents.

The trouble of getting up Galvanism and applying it, has probably induced many of us to rest satisfied with the conclusion that it can be of no great use, or it would be more frequently applied. This excuse will not now do. As the machines are now constructed, it is of easier application than Electricity, and can be used in all weathers, so that I hope a more general trial will be given. You are probably aware that we have now, for the first time, in this city, a scientific maker of these instru-

ments (W. King, Pemberton Hill), where we can at a moment's warning purchase or use all the apparatus, kept ready for use, should our first trial happen to be in a case of asphyxia, by drowning or otherwise. Dr. King was a physician, I believe, but has now devoted himself exclusively to the making and improvement of these machines, as well as to their application under the direction of medical men. His instruments are of the first order, and his improvements on them curious and philosophical, and well pay the trouble of a visit to his rooms, where, I believe, the Dr.'s courtesy has invited us all.

In common with several of the profession, I was not aware how variously modified this agent may be in its application, and would recommend to all in the same ignorance to stop in at Dr. King's, who holds himself ready to make all explanations and illustrations to the profession. Yours, &c.

Boston, July 19. X.

MEDICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, JULY 26, 1831.

TREATMENT OF THE CHOLERA.

It appears by accounts received from Paris, that the number of persons attacked with cholera in Moscow, during the four months succeeding September last, exceeded 8000, and that more than one half of these cases proved fatal. The population of Moscow is 250,000. A letter from Dr. Jachnichen, Member of the Counsel of Medicine, and who has been officially engaged in the post-mortem examination of a great number of patients, gives, as the result of his observations, that cholera is not contagious, but is propagated through the medium of the atmosphere, which becomes charged with the emanations from the bodies of the individuals affected; and that in this way a hospital becomes a centre of infection. The miasm appears to have a peculiar affinity for the atmospheric vapors, and to be equally volatile with them. Some of these vapors, condensed in apartments where a large number of patients were collected, have furnished a substance possessing peculiar properties, and similar to that which Monati obtained at Florence. This tendency to unite with the moisture of the atmosphere, is thought by M. Jachnichen to explain the rapid progress of cholera, and the route it has pursued. It is not impossible that the miasm, in a state of solution in the atmosphere, may be conveyed by the wind from place to place, and reproduce the disease in this manner. If so, the inutility of the precautions and sanitary measures hitherto adopted is fully explained, and there seems no prospect of preventing the disease, by any regulations of this sort, from extending its ravages throughout Europe.

We have, in speaking of this disease, hitherto avoided any remarks on the treatment, both as its principles did not appear very definitely settled, and as none of the remedies, —except perhaps opium, which is already familiarly known as such to practitioners here—seems to have enjoyed any permanent confidence. In India, laudanum combined with various stimulants appears to have

been principally employed, and to have exerted in many cases a most beneficial influence. As a commencing measure, venesection has been resorted to; but the prostrating influence of the disease in its severe form, is too rapid to admit depletion of any kind. Of the various plans of treatment which have been recommended, it will be sufficient to mention vomiting with sulphate of zinc, blistering with cantharides and nitric acid, mercurial friction, inunction of the stomach with cajeput oil, the hot bath, calomel with laudanum, and the inhalation of nitrous acid gas; the last with the view of furnishing oxygen to the blood, and through this of stimulating the general system. The following powerful stimulant, under the name of Anti-Cholera Drops, was employed by a surgeon of eminence at Madras.

R. Elix. Daffy, with a large proportion of Senna, ℥ ij.
Spt. Ammon. Arom. ℥ ijss.
Tinct. Caryophyll. ℥ ss.
Ol. Junip. gtt. vi.
" Menth. Pip. gtt. viij.
" Cajeput, gtt. x.
Spt. Eth. Nit. ℥ iij.
Mist. Cam. ℥ x. f. mist. Dose ℥ i.

SOUNDS OF THE HEART.

It is a curious fact, that the nature of the most obvious indication given by the stethoscope, namely, the sounds in the chest produced by the heart, should still be so far from decided, as to form one of the most fruitful subjects of physiological discussion. Of the sounds which are heard on applying the ear to the region of the heart, the first is a dull beat, as of a body impinged against another, and this is accompanied by a sensation of impulse conveyed from the ribs to the stethoscope, and thence communicated to the ear. This is immediately succeeded by another sound, differing from the first in character, and which has been compared by Laennec to the lapping of a dog. This sound is not accompanied with perceptible impulse against the ribs. It is succeeded by a sensible interval before the first-named sound again occurs. During the second sound, it is observed that the heart appears to retreat from the ribs, and to draw itself within the chest. It is nearly agreed, also, that the pulse is synchronous with the first of the above-named sounds, and not with the second. The question then arises—To what actions of the heart are these successive sounds to be referred?

The pulse being produced by the dilatation of the vessels, it is natural to suppose that it takes place at the moment when the blood is thrown from the heart into the external system, or, in other words, that the pulse is synchronous with the contraction of the ventricle. It was to this contraction, therefore, that Laennec referred the primary sound above described, and the impulse of the organ against the parietes of the chest. This supposition, however, is attended with a material difficulty; for the contraction of the ventricle must be successive to that of the auricle, since it is by the jet of blood from the latter cavity that the former is stimulated to action. Farther, it has actually been observed in frogs, and supposed to be so in the vivisections of other animals, that this is the order of actions. If, then,

the primary sound is produced by the auricle, and the secondary by the ventricle, there remain two important questions to determine—1st, how is the impulse produced, and 2dly, how comes the pulse to be simultaneous with the filling of the ventricle, instead of corresponding with its contraction and emptying?

To the first of these questions it has been answered, with some plausibility, that the impulse of the ventricle against the ribs may take place as a consequence of distension; and that at the time of the second sound, when the heart appears to retire within the chest, the ventricle may be rejecting its contents, and contracting itself into smaller dimensions. The second question does not admit of so satisfactory a solution. It has been said, indeed, that the simultaneous occurrence of the pulse with the first sound is not strictly true, and that a certain perceptible interval may be discovered between them; but this idea wants confirmation, and unless it can be shown how the contraction of the auricle may give rise to this phenomenon, the nature of the sounds alluded to must still be involved in the same obscurity.

ORAN-OUTANG.

We advise all our brethren to see this animal, which is now exhibiting in Summer Street. Even such as reside far from the city, will be amply compensated for travelling many miles to witness this wonderful production of nature. It is the first of the species ever brought to this country, and although but 20 months old, is over two feet in height, and is growing rapidly. It is a female, walks readily on the hind feet, or rather on the hind legs, and lies down to rest with the air of a child of ten or twelve years. Her countenance is generally placid and almost thoughtful, but changes with, and becomes quite expressive of her feelings; her movements are much slower than those of the monkey; her disposition is gentle, and she evinces strong attachment to those who have the care of her. Her diet is chiefly milk, rice, eggs, and fruit, but she is particularly fond of dainties. When a cup of bread, milk and berries, is given her, she will hold the cup in her left hand, and with the spoon in her right, pick out the berries one by one, and eat them with great goût. She is apparently fond of dress; puts on and takes off her hat and shawl quite *à la mode*, and when she lies down, will pull up the bedclothes over her shoulders, place the back of her hand upon the pillow, and then rest her head upon its palm. She has none of the grimaces of the common ape, and in her whole air and aspect, bears an almost painful resemblance to the human species.

The body of this animal is of a brown color, and but partially covered with hair. The palms of the hands, the soles of the feet, and the face, are almost destitute of it; but it is probable that as winter approaches, this protection will be more abundant. There is no tail whatever, nor any mark of such an appendage; the back bone terminates precisely as in the human species. The thumb-like projection on the

inside of the feet, which is peculiar to the oran-outang, is very perfect, and fixes the character of this animal. The catamenial function has not yet commenced. In apes it usually begins between two and three years of age—or at about the termination of the first quarter of the animal's natural life,—as is the case with the human species.

It will be recollected that there are two principal varieties of the oran-outang; the first and largest, called pongo, attains the height of six feet and is very powerful; the second, which has been called jocko, is less powerful, and attains but about half that size. Of this latter variety, of which is that now exhibiting in this city, there have been several carried to England and France, and described by naturalists of those countries. These descriptions all correspond accurately with each other, and apply with equal truth to the animal now here. Those carried to England and France have generally died at the beginning of winter. In our country, there is such a variety of climate, that by judicious management the animal may be easily kept alive at all seasons, and will not only instruct the naturalist, and gratify the curiosity of multitudes in every State in the Union, but bring a very rich harvest to its owner. The expense of keeping is small, and that of attending and transporting her will also be trifling.

It is said of a French Divine, that he succeeded in raising an animal of this species, which became so much attached to him that it would follow him wherever he went, unless confined in its apartment,—as it always was, of course, whenever the reverend father went to listen to the history of his people's sins, forgive them their iniquities, and teach them to avoid like practices in future. On one of these occasions, however, the animal escaped unseen, and followed its beloved guardian to the church. When there, we are told that "he mounted the sounding board over the pulpit, and lay perfectly motionless till the sermon commenced. He then crept to the edge of the board, and overlooking the preacher, imitated all his gestures in so grotesque a manner, that the congregation was unavoidably caused to laugh. The father, surprised and confounded at this ill-timed levity, reproved his audience for their inattention. The reproof failed in its effect; the congregation still laughed, and the preacher, in the warmth of his zeal, redoubled his vociferations and his actions; these the ape so exactly imitated, that the congregation could no longer restrain themselves, but burst into a loud and continued laughter. A friend of the preacher at length stepped up to him, and pointed out the cause of this improper conduct; and such was the arch demeanor of the animal, that it was with the utmost difficulty he could command his countenance and keep himself apparently serious, while he ordered the servant of the church to take the ape away."

SMALLPOX.

We understand that a case of this disease appeared at Lynn a few weeks ago, and excited considerable

alarm. The individual affected was sent to Rainsford Island, but as several persons had in the mean time been exposed to the infection, it was feared that other cases might make their appearance. It appears too evident that the hope which was once entertained of banishing this pestilence from the regions of the civilized world by means of vaccination, is likely to prove altogether illusory. Not a year passes but numbers of cases occur in our own population, where the precautions taken against it are exceedingly great; and accounts of its prevalence in different parts of the country are continually reaching us. Under these circumstances, there is no duty more imperative than for the physicians in this city to be provided at all times with a good supply of vaccine matter, not only to meet the demand which may at any time arise here, but also to supply their medical brethren in the country. A plan which has been adopted for this purpose among us, has been attended with singularly good effects. It consists in a voluntary association of twelve physicians, who agree to keep themselves provided in succession, each for the space of a month, with a good supply of quills armed with the virus, as well as with the scabs, which they may be able to obtain from their vaccine patients. Of these clubs thus constituted, there are now three; and we have little doubt that another will be organized at no very distant period. Though the immediate object of this arrangement is the accommodation of the parties immediately interested, and the primary obligation of each individual is to the members of his own club, yet an application to these associations will always afford to our friends in the country the surest means of obtaining matter in times of scarcity. We will also give notice to our readers, in the interim, that should any of them have occasion to send to town on this errand, the names of those gentlemen who may be applied to with the best prospect of success, can always be obtained at our office.

HOOPING COUGH.

Could we be as much enlightened on the subject of pertussis as we have been respecting croup, how important a step should we advance in medical improvement! An ingenious paper on this disease is published in the *Revue Medicale.* It is written by M. Bland, who has the advantage, in his speculations, of direct personal experience—having passed through the disease late in life. Respecting the *theory* of the disease he says,—

"Hooping cough has been considered by some as a catarrhal affection complicated with spasm; by others as a cough essentially spasmodic; some again have placed its seat in the stomach, spleen, &c. &c. We suffered the disease ourselves before we recognised its nature; it consists in a morbid specific secretion of bronchial mucus, saturated nearly with the muriate of soda, the irritating action of which induces the tickling which determines the fits of coughing. The first impression occasioned in us by the matter of expectoration caused considerable surprise, but on further experience its nature soon became manifest. We may then conclude that this affection

is nothing but a morbid secretion in which this salt predominates, and according to this view, all the phenomena observed may be easily explained. At first the secretion is scanty, the tickling slight, and the cough simply catarrhal; but in proportion to the increase of the secretion the irritation is augmented, and the hooping and convulsive paroxysm supervene. Why, we would ask, should not this occur from the action of this irritant salt, when we know that even the most insipid foreign substance may produce violent paroxysms of diarrhœa and coughing? If, again, we seek for analogical arguments in support of this doctrine, we know that the tears are frequently so altered in composition as almost to become corrosive: under certain circumstances, the bile acquires such acrid properties that its contact with the intestinal mucous membrane occasions the most violent colics. Again; certain cutaneous exudations cause an eruption of pustules on the skin to which they are applied."

The above views are confirmed by other statements. The expectoration is said to become less saline as the symptoms of the disease abate; and the greater abundance of the secretion at night, gives rise to the nocturnal exacerbations so common in this complaint.

In the *treatment* based on these views, and which has been tested by M. Bland at a period when pertussis prevailed extensively in his vicinity, the chief remedies on which he relies are belladonna and sulphuret of potass. As the latter article is not in very common use, his table of doses for persons of different ages may not be unacceptable. It is as follows.

Below 2 years		1-2 to	i. grain
From 2 to 5	-	-	ij. —
5 to 10	-	-	iij. —
10 to 15	-	-	vi. —
15 to 20	-	ix. to	x. —

and above.

The following cases in which this medicine was administered, will present a fair view of its apparent power over the disease.

"*First Case.*—M. Pongé, ætat. 20, admitted 18th Jan., 1831, five weeks ill of hooping cough; paroxysms violent, frequent, especially at night; expectoration strongly saline. To have one grain extract belladonna four times a day. From 18th to 29th, same remedy; no amelioration. 26th, ten grains of sulphuret of potash mixed with honey, to be taken morning and evening; sensible improvement; paroxysms less severe; sleeps well. 30th and 31st, same treatment; cough simply catarrhal; expectoration no longer saline. 2d Feb., cure complete.

"*Second Case.*—Joseph Pongé, ætat. 21, brother of the first patient, admitted 18th Jan., ill of hooping cough since the 14th of the same month; paroxysms more violent than his brother's; symptoms also of cephalic congestion determined by the violence of the cough; venesection once; belladonna as in first case; no improvement. 29th Jan., ten grains of sulphuret of potash; cough less frequent, less severe; night tranquil. 30th and 31st, same prescription; expectoration less saline. 23d Feb., complete cure."

OBSERVATIONS ON THE SOLIDIFICATION OF TURPENTINE BY CALCINED MAGNESIA.

The French Journal of Pharmacy contains some account of the Solidification of Turpentine, by M. Faure, of Bordeaux, by which it appears that the solidified copaiba which has been tried here in gonorrhœa, and,

so far as our own experience goes, with no benefit whatever, contains the *essential oil* only, destitute of the resin. Both the essential oil and resin have been heretofore given separately with little benefit, and it is found that the copaiba itself, which contains both in combination, is far more powerful than either of its ingredients.

The essence of turpentine, says M. Faure, has been successfully employed for many years in different affections, remarkably so as a vermifuge, and very recently as a remedy in neuralgic diseases. Having witnessed the difficulty frequently experienced in its administration from the invincible dislike many patients conceive for its acrid and caustic flavor, I have undertaken a series of experiments, for the purpose of fixing or enveloping the turpentine, so as to destroy this unpleasant property. The successful results of these researches are as follows:—

1. Venice turpentine, and that obtained from the *terebinthina pinea*, was treated with calcined magnesia in different proportions. These mixtures became solid in the space of a few days, varying according to the quantity of magnesia employed.

2. The same turpentines were mixed with one-third of their quantity of the essential oil. These mixtures, in some instances, acquired a sufficient degree of consistence, in others became altogether solidified.

3. The solid masses were divided and boiled in alcohol, which dissolved away the turpentine, leaving the magnesia entirely unaltered in its chemical relations.

Magnesia is also capable of forming a modified combination with copaiba balsam, the resin of which it separates, acting on the volatile oil as a mechanical absorbent alone.

On these principles, M. Faure proposes formulæ for administering turpentine, its essential oil and copaiba balsam, in the pillular form. These we do not extract, because the turpentines of various countries differ remarkably in the degree of facility with which they become solidified, and it is only by experiment that the apothecary can become acquainted with the necessary proportions to be employed.

POLICE ARRANGEMENT.

A CORRESPONDENT of the London Lancet animadverts upon the evils resulting from the deficiency of urinals in that city. It is a very important defect in the police of every city where these conveniences are not provided in sufficient numbers. In Boston many persons feel the want of such accommodations. Undue suppressions of natural evacuations are not only disagreeable and painful in themselves, but lead to some agonizing, dangerous, and even fatal diseases. In most of the large cities on the continent of Europe, ample provision of this kind is made, and it becomes the councils of every metropolis, to follow so wise and salutary an example.

Besides the benefit to be thus derived to the health of individuals, no other means would so effectually secure our public buildings from defilement,—a great and crying evil among us, and one which the ingenuity of the mechanic has proved wholly inadequate to prevent. The corners of public streets, our arched ways, passages, and courts, bear no less ample testimony to the deficiency alluded to; so that the comfort as well as the health of our citizens and of those strangers who visit us

from other places, would be greatly promoted by the establishment of proper retreats, in retired situations, in different sections of the city.

NEW MEDICAL WORK.

THE profession is soon to be favored with a new work on the History and Treatment of Syphilitic Diseases of the Skin, by Mr. Wallace, of Dublin. Mr. W. is well known to the scientific world as author of several valuable treatises on subjects connected with cutaneous diseases, and has long been the active Surgeon of the Dublin Infirmary for Diseases of the Skin. In the forthcoming volume, the *primary* symptoms and eruptions, as well as the secondary, will be discussed, and the whole illustrated by delineations as large as life, and colored after nature.

Tympanitis of the Intestines, relieved by the Introduction of a Tube. By Dr. TOUZET. (*Compte rendu de la Soc. R. Med., &c., de Toulouse*, 1829).—A man, forty-eight years of age, of a nervous temperament, after having eaten an enormous quantity of bread and raw beans, experienced very severe pain in the right hypochondriac region. These pains increased at intervals, and were accompanied by great prostration of strength and paleness of face. Leeches, hip baths, sulphate of soda, and iced water, were employed, without advantage. There was great tension of the belly, and, if the patient felt relief for a moment, it appeared to depend upon frequent eructations. Under these circumstances, and when the symptoms had reached such a degree of severity that the life of the patient appeared in danger, M. Touzet had recourse to the following expedient: he first administered an enema, and then introduced into the anus a hollow tube, about four lines in diameter, compressing, at the same time, the most distended and painful parts of the abdomen. An abundant quantity of air was thus expelled, and the patient was greatly relieved. The tube was retained in its situation by an appropriate apparatus, and compression was kept up upon the belly by a bandage and cushion: gas was thus freely evacuated. The next day, the patient was free from pain. Cordials were now administered with prudence, and a strengthening regimen restored him to perfect health.

Iodine.—The sphere of this medicine's action seems to be daily enlarging. A physician in Liverpool has found its internal use efficacious in psoriasis, herpes and lepra, and it will be seen by the following notice that it has conquered a formidable and often obstinate affection of the mucous membrane.

Employment of Tincture of Iodine in Urethritis. By M. BROGLIA DEL PERSICO.—From several experiments made by this physician, it appears that the tincture of iodine may be used in all forms of blenorrhagia without any unpleasant effect peculiar to the medicine, without any precaution, and that it usually induces a rapid and radical cure.

First Case.—A man, æt. 28, addicted to drinking, was affected since the 27th of October with a blenorrhagia, for which injections of various kinds had been ineffectually tried, especially the solution of caustic potassa, in the manner recommended by Fordyce, Warren, Mederer, and Girtanner. The balsam of copaiba taken internally, and used as an injection, had no better success. M. Broglia saw the patient after the blenorrhagia had lasted two months, and the inflammation and discharge had slightly abated. The tincture of iodine was now given in doses of

twelve drops morning and evening, in four ounces of barley-water. In eight days the urethritis entirely ceased.

Second Case.—The wife of the patient now mentioned had been long affected with a vaginal discharge; astonished with the rapidity of her husband's cure, she made use, every morning, of eight drops of the tincture of iodine in a glass of spring water. In ten days she was entirely cured.

Seven similar cases are recorded by the same physician, and exhibit apparently equally good effects from the use of this remedy in inflammations of this kind.—*Ann. Universali.*

Medicinal Use of the Ioduret of Lead.—For the last fortnight, twelve scrofulous patients have been subjected to the action of the ioduret of lead by M. Guersent. The majority of these patients already exhibit decided improvement. We shall in due course give detailed notices of the several cases thus treated.—*Lancette Francaise.*

Phosphate of Quinine.—Dr. Harless, of Bonn, has found that the phosphate of quinine is not only more agreeable to the palate than the sulphate, but that the alkali thus neutralized by an animal acid becomes more readily digested, and is more quickly taken into the system. Experience has also shown him that the phosphate agrees better with irritable stomachs than the sulphate, nitrate, or acetate. The dose is from one to four grains.

Mr. Francis Boot, now Dr. Boot, and formerly of this city, is a highly popular teacher of Anatomy in one of the London schools. At the conclusion of his course for the past season, he was presented with several valuable works, given him by his pupils "as a testimony of their admiration of his talents as a teacher, his virtues as a man, and his kindness as a friend."

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